From: Bill McAuley **On Behalf Of** PSIO-Intelligence
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 6:01 PM
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Subject: PSIO SITREP UPDATE #16 – 12 Feb 2022 – Freedom Convoy Solidarity Activity

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PRELIMINARY INFORMATION ONLY: SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS SITUATION DEVELOPS. INFORMATION MAY BE BASED ON UNCONFIRMED REPORTING.

UPDATE #16

DATE/TIME: February 12, 2022 @ 18:00 hrs

PURPOSE: To provide aggregated situational awareness regarding "Freedom Convoy" solidarity activity impacting Alberta.

BACKGROUND: No change.

CURRENT STATUS:

Coutts Border Crossing & Milk River:

- No addition update available at this time.
- *As of 09:00 hrs Sat 12 Feb, RCMP and Sheriff Highway Patrol (SHP) report:*
    - *Highway 4 remains completely blocked by protestors at the COUTTS location.*
    - *Traffic has been stopped by RCMP at CHECKPOINT 10 and CHECKPOINT 14 to prevent traffic from surging south to COUTTS and accumulating at the blockade.*
    - *CCMG remains engaged with the identified leadership group at COUTTS. Mood remains neutral towards police.*

Alberta Legislature / McDougall Centre

- As of 16:20 hrs Sat 12 Feb, EPS and Sheriffs report:
    - "Liberty" march began at LEGISLATURE and moved to CITY HALL with approx. 500 pers.
    - Some stragglers left the designated lane but no traffic issues resulted.

- After the march, approx. 300 pers remained on LEGISLATURE grounds and 300 pers on 109 St during Convoy movement.

City of Edmonton & Environs

- The CITY OF EDMONTON obtained an interim injunction from Justice R.P. Belzil (Court of Queen's Bench) on 11 Feb prohibiting "the frequent or sustained sounding of motor vehicle horns, truck air horns, equipment horns, megaphones and other similar noise making devices within the boundaries of the City contrary to the Community Standards Bylaw 14600." The order remains in force until the hearing for a permanent injunction scheduled for 4 Mar.
- As of 16:20 hrs Sat 12 Feb, EPS report:
  - Of the approx. 840 vehicles that entered Edmonton, approx. 700 have remained in the downtown core. 400+ pers remain on 109 St. Congestion still in core. 108/109ST from 97ave. 97 Ave backed up across the river.
  - Counter-protest materialized on RIVER VALLEY ROAD. Approx. 30+ counter-protestors (associated to CLIMATE JUSTICE EDMONTON) blocked traffic in both directions while 'Freedom Convoy' was attempting to move through. Convoy backed up GROAT RD. [A member of Edm city council was pictured on Twitter bringing snacks to the counter-protestors on RIVER VALLEY RD.]
  - Approx. 200 protestors from "Liberty" march moved towards counter-protestors in apparent attempt to remove them. EPS deployed Disruption Team and Public Safety Unit to maintain separation between protestors and counter-protestors.
  - EPS negotiated counter-protestor movement off the roadway and convoy continued movement after approximately one hour. No direct confrontations between protestors and counter-protestors. [Social media commentary focusing on EPS removal of counter protesters rather than stopping convoy.]
  - EPS observed multiple vehicles sounding horns or revving their engines. Members attempted to educate participants on the injunction. License plate numbers have been collected and enforcement will follow. [Social media responses very negative towards police for perception of not enforcing injunction.]

City of Calgary & Environs

- CPS report that approximately 5000 persons attended an anti-PHO march and rally in downtown Calgary on Sat 12 Feb. A small convoy of approx. 50 vehicles drove by in support near the end of the march.
- CPS report that a crowd of 100-145 supporters arrived at the CALGARY REMAND CENTRE (12200 85 St NW) on Sat 12 Feb to express support for Artur PAWLOWSKI. A small number (6-7) of protestors attempted to cross lines and became disruptive, but eventually complied with requests from Sheriffs and Corrections officers.

Regional Municipalities / Rural

- TRANS reports a small rally occurred in HIGH PRAIRIE on 12 Feb on the side of HIGHWAY 2 with no roadway obstructions.
- Social media indicates a protest is planned for Centennial Plaza in COCHRANE on 13 Feb.
- RCMP report online indicator of a protest is planned for MLA LAGRANGE's office in RED DEER on 13 Feb.

- RCMP report online indicator of a convoy is planned to run from Golden, BC to Regina, SK on 13 Feb. It is planned to pass through CALGARY, MEDICINE HAT, and REDCLIFF.

Province of Alberta

- No change.

Ottawa "Freedom Convoy 2022"

- Ottawa police have said they were temporarily "overwhelmed" by belligerent protestors on 11 Feb, and have requested additional reinforcements from other police agencies. Overnight, demonstrators exhibited aggressive behaviour towards law enforcement including refusing to follow directions, overwhelming officers, and otherwise subverting enforcement efforts. Protestors reportedly removed fencing from the National War Memorial.
- As of 11:25 EST Sat 12 Feb, Ottawa Police reported they have issued more than 2,600 tickets, have made 26 arrests, and have 140 active criminal offence investigations in relation to the demonstration.
- The Ottawa Police Service and the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) have launched a joint truck violation initiative. 3 vehicles have been placed out of service, and 10 charges have been issued including: moving violations, document offenses, lapsed inspection, and daily log infractions.
- The City of Ottawa has announced it is seeking an injunction to supplement orders included in the city and province's States Of Emergency. A separate injunction awarded to an Ottawa citizen remains in place that prohibits the use of horns or noisemaking devices within the city.
- TD Bank has reportedly applied to surrender to an Ontario court all remaining un-refunded GoFundMe monies totalling approximately $1 million, as well as approximately $400,000 collected by the Convoy fundraisers in direct donations to TD Bank accounts. Convoy fundraising has continued on alternate platform GiveSendGo, who have disputed an Ontario Superior Court order demanding the funds be frozen. Convoy organizers have also reportedly shifted to fundraising using cryptocurrency, and have raised approximately $1.1million in Bitcoin.

Other Provinces / National

- A coalition of police services has continued to clear the blockade on the AMBASSADOR BRIDGE, using concrete barriers to prevent re-entry and ticketing and towing vehicles that did not leave the bridge earlier.
- Open source reporting indicates that the anti-PHO protest held at QUEEN'S PARK caused minimal disruption, and no convoys reached TORONTO's downtown core.

International

- A US-based protest planned for SWEETGRASS, approximately ½ mile south of the COUTTS border, is expected to draw approximately 250 persons on 12 Feb. There are no indicators that the protest will approach the border line or impact movement of goods. US BORDER PATROL preparing SWEEETGRASS location (Air-Strip) west of town to be utilized for protest south of border.

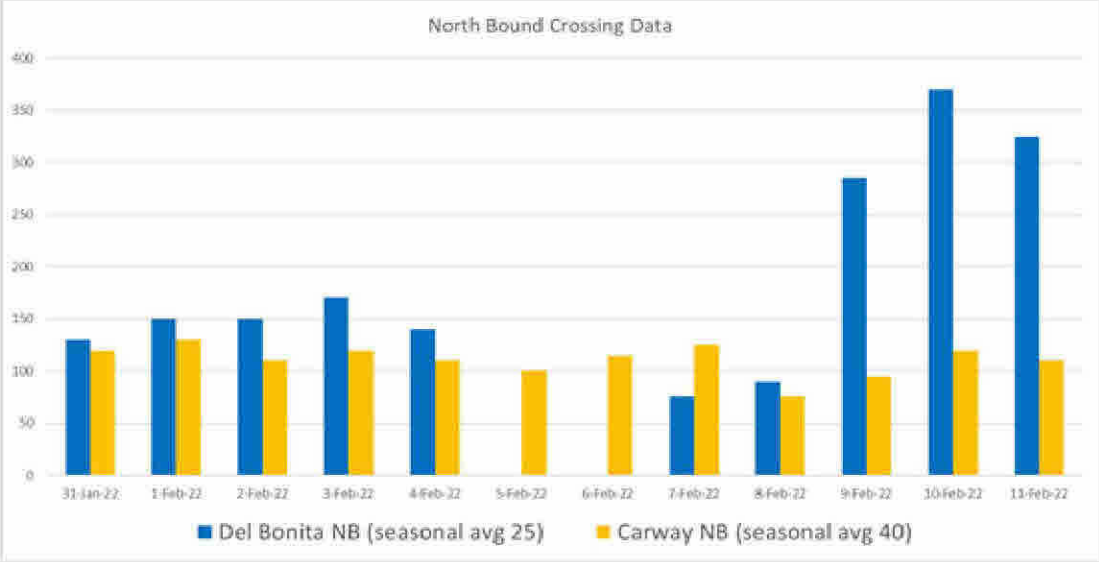
MINISTRY UPDATES:

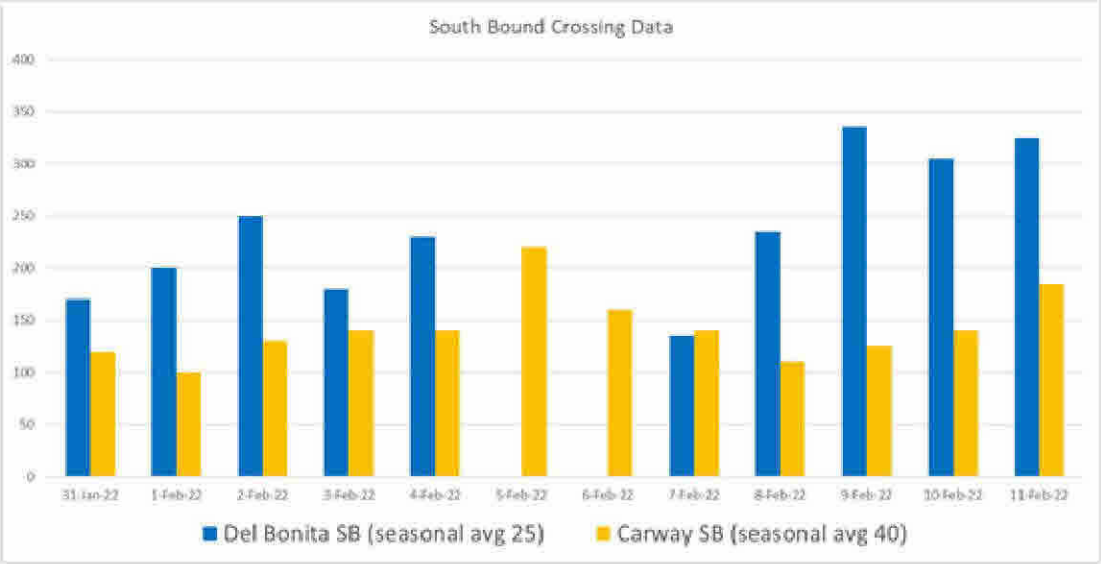
Justice & Solicitor General (JSG):

- JSG assisting with sourcing of equipment such as heavy wreckers, flat deck tow trucks, light tow trucks, and trailer/tow units. Storage and staging locations are being identified. [There are indicators that blockade supporters are aware of activities relating to the procurement of used towing equipment. Social media indicates fake postings are now being placed in online markets.]

Transportation (TRANS):

- At 13:01 hrs, February 12, CBSA issued a new release communicating that services at COUTTS port of entry are temporarily suspended.
    - CBSA new release directs commercial traffic entering Canada to the ports of NORTH PORTAL, SK, REGWAY, SK, ROOSEVILLE, BC and KINGSGATE, BC as the closest alternative processing sites for commercial traffic.
    - USCBP website reports SWEETGRASS remaining open at this time. Department has confirmed.





Municipal Affairs:

- No change.

Jobs, Economy, and Innovation (JEI):

- No change.

Agriculture, Forestry, and Rural Economic Development (AFRED):

- No change.

ASSESSMENT & STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS:

- Although convoy movement activity has continued, turnout at events on 12 Feb appears to have declined from previous weekends. Support convoys have continued to bring supplies to blockade participants in COUTTS and MILK RIVER, but interactions at police checkpoints appear to have stabilized and no escalation has been reported despite the influx of new supporters.
- Public sentiment towards police action in Alberta has been mixed, and has drawn comparisons to WINDSOR and OTTAWA. Police engagement with counter-protestors in EDMONTON has acted as a focal point for both criticism and support.

FORECAST:

- 'Freedom convoy' solidarity will likely remain the focus of Canadian activism for the foreseeable future.
- As the occupation draws on, the counter-protest movement could see a surge in support, especially from local community members who have voiced their displeasure over protest/blockade activities.

PREPARED BY: Intelligence Bureau, Provincial Security & Intelligence Office (PSIO)

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